Foodgrains provided under "Food for Work" Programme

†*16. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the "Food for Work" programme;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the number of States to whom foodgrains have been provided free of cost so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) A new poverty alleviation programme, National Food for Work Programme (NEFWP) has been launched from the month of November 2004 in 150 most backward Districts of the Country to generate supplementary wage employment with food security. All the States except Goa have been covered under the programme. The programme is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Foodgrains to the States under the programme are free of cost. For the current year, Rs. 2020 crores have been allocated for the Scheme in addition of 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. The State-wise allocation of funds and foodgrains is at Statement. [Refer to the Statement's appended to Starred Question No. 14]

Migration from rural areas to cities

*17. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey of migration of rural people to cities seeking better living conditions;

(b) if so, whether the percentage of such migration during the last decade has came down or gone up; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down this migration to cities?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) While rural to urban migration is a

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

characteristic of a developing economy the Ministry of Rural Development has not conducted any survey about the migration of rural people to cities seeking better living conditions. However, available estimates show that during the period 1983-2000 the percentage of male migrants to total population remained almost constant at about 7% for rural areas. In the case of rural females it has increased from 35% in 1983 to about 43% in 1999-2000.

The Ministry of Rural Development implements, through the State Governments, the major schemes of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the Swaranjayanti Gram Swaraozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide wage and self employment to members of the rural families living below the poverty line in all the rural areas of the country. These schemes are primarily designed to provide employment to the rural poor in their villages or nearby villages so that migration of such people from rural to urban areas could be reduced. Other schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as the Prime Ministers Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Indira Awaas yojana (IAY) and the Watershed Development Programme are also designed to improve the living conditions in the rural areas as well as indirectly provide employment. Government has also recently launched a National Food for Work Programme in 150 most backward Districts in the country with the objective to provide additional employment opportunities to the rural poor.

Sick Jute Mills in Public Sector

†*18. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many jute mills being run in public sector in various states of the country have become sick or on the verge of becoming sick;

(b) if so, names of states in the country where jute mills were running in public sector till july, 2004;

(c) number of mills among the said mills which have become sick and number of mills which are running in loss; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.